

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2002/08/28 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000500080027-0

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

[Redacted]

Copy 14 of 20

20 MAY 63

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Surfacing of LRI Prototype.

REFERENCE : Proposal for Surfacing an LRI Prototype as
Cover for the OXCART Program, [Redacted]

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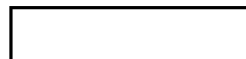
1. The referenced memorandum, dated 10 April 1963, outlined a proposal for the surfacing of an LRI prototype as a cover mechanism for the OXCART program.

2. As you will recall, immediately subsequent to your receipt of this proposal, an informal meeting was held to discuss the recommendations included therein and to determine a further course of action. It was concluded at that time that no further action would be taken on the recommendations until you had had an opportunity to discuss the merits of the proposal with Secretary McNamara and elicited his views on the subject. Since that time there has been no further exchange of correspondence on this subject and we are uncertain as to whether the problem has been discussed with Secretary McNamara and, if so, the results of such a discussion.

3. The purpose of this memorandum is to restate the grave concern expressed in our previous memorandum with regard to the possibility of an untoward incident which could result in an uncontrolled surfacing of the OXCART vehicle. Since that paper was written, there have been several minor incidents involving mechanical malfunctions and sightings of the A-12 which might have developed into serious problems had fortune not otherwise dictated. In addition, during this period, escalated activity in the R-12 procurement program has, as we anticipated, generated increasing speculation both in the industry and in the Air Force regarding many facets of the program.

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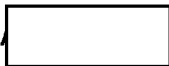
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4. In light of the foregoing, I feel that it is not only appropriate but essential at this time, to request a reconsideration of this problem by the NRO with a view toward making recommendations to the Ad Hoc Cover Committee and higher authorities as to whether we should continue with the currently approved contingency plan or take action to implement the proposed LRI surfacing. I would appreciate your comments at your earliest convenience.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

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